

Moran Announces USDA Conservation Reserve Program Sign-Up

General Sign-up Period Will Begin August 2nd

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Congressman Jerry Moran announced today that the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) will hold a general sign-up for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) from August 2, 2010 through August 27, 2010.

"Today's announcement finally gives Kansas farmers the information they need to make informed land management decisions about whether to prepare their land for production or continue to participate in the CRP contract during the next crop year," said Moran. "This announcement would have been more helpful a month ago, but I am glad that Kansas farmers can now make important management decisions about their CRP acres."

During House Agriculture Committee hearings over the past few months, Moran has raised concerns with USDA officials about the need to announce a general sign-up period, given that a substantial amount of CRP acres are set to expire on September 30, 2010 and that farmers were allowed to begin destroying grass cover on certain expiring acres on July 1, 2010.

Secretary Vilsack announced today that land owners will have the opportunity to offer land not currently enrolled in CRP and re-enroll CRP contracts set to expire in 2010 during the August sign-up period. The 2008 Farm Bill authorized USDA to maintain CRP's enrollment up to 32 million acres.

The USDA's Conservation Reserve Program conserves soil and enhances water quality and wildlife habitat by making annual rental payments to agricultural producers who enter ten to fifteen year contracts to plant and maintain vegetative cover on highly erodible farmland. Currently, 31.24 million acres are enrolled in CRP nationwide, of which 2.78 million are in Kansas. On September 30, 2010, 4.5 million acres are set to expire, of which more than 614,000 acres are in Kansas.

For more information about CRP and other FSA programs, please visit your county FSA office or www.fsa.usda.gov.

Moran is a senior member of the House Agriculture Committee.

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